

**Homegoing Celebration**  
for  
**Willie Mae Atlas**



**Central Baptist Number One Church**

39 Ransdell Street  
Lake Providence, Louisiana

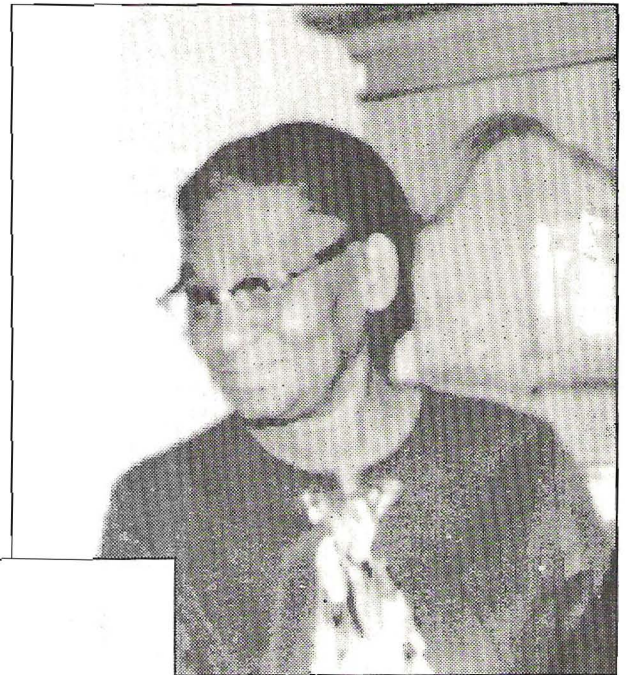
Saturday, January 18, 2003

Family Hour – 2:00 P.M.

Services – 3:00 P.M.

**Rev. Arthur Thomas, Officiating**





“Be faithful, even to the point  
of death, and I will give  
you the crown of life.”

Revelation 2:10



## Order of Service

*Processional*

*Musical Selection.....Central Baptist No. I Choir  
and Progressive Missionary Baptist Choir*

*Scripture*

*Old Testament.....Rev. Steven Conley .....Proverbs 31:10-31*

*New Testament.....Rev. Arthur Thomas.....Galatians 5:22-26*

*Prayer.....Rev. Arthur Thomas*

*Solo .....Marie Findley*

*Acknowledgement.....Elizabeth B. Trass*

*Tributes.....Two (2) Minutes.....Samuel Bell  
Phillip K. Atlas  
Others*

*Scenes from the Life of A Beautiful Women .....Willie James Atlas*

*Musical Selection.....Central Baptist No. I Choir  
and Progressive Missionary Baptist Choir*

*Eulogy.....Rev. Arthur Thomas*

*Recessional*



*Usher Service .....Central Baptist No. I Choir  
and Progressive Missionary Baptist Choir*





# WILLIE MAE ATLAS

## SCENES FROM THE LIFE OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

### PROLOGUE:

**SUNRISE** - What a special day it was, March 14, 1908, when Willie Mae Gibson made her debut into this world and into the loving and waiting arms of her parents, the late Willie and Matilda Gibson - what a sweet spirit. She was the older of two children with the younger preceding her in death.

*"Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of heaven."* The call to Jesus Christ came early to Willie Mae and she answered and never waived. She accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior whereupon she joined Central Baptist Number One Church of Lake Providence, Louisiana. She drew near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.

God had great plans for Willie Mae Gibson so in preparation for the carrying out of these plans she enrolled in school and attended the East Carroll Training School and completed the required course of study. She had aspirations of becoming a nurse and, an accomplished pianist. She lived these dreams through some of her children, one who became a nurse and several who played the piano or achieved success in other musical ventures.

*"...and they will become one flesh",* Willie Mae Gibson joined Francis Joseph Atlas, Sr. in holy matrimony. This blessed and anointed union lasted for seventy-three years and produced twelve loving children, *"Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house..."*

As a wife she was the epitome of the Proverbs 31 woman:

*She was a wife of noble character  
Worth more than rubies  
She brought him good, not harm all the days of her life  
Her husband had full confidence in her  
And lacked nothing of value*

Tho' not a high powered professional in the world of work, she was a high powered professional in the most important job of all, that of homemaker. *"A good woman builds up her house..."*, Willie Mae and her husband raised twelve very successful children, who salute and celebrate her life, a life filled with nurturing, providing for, and protecting her family. Joseph,

as she affectionately called her husband, was the master farmer, and she was the master gardener raising everything from butter beans to collard greens and from tomatoes to sweet corn. For many years, she even mastered the task of raising poultry: geese, ducks and chickens. There was always plenty of delicious and nutritious food in the Atlas home. Her skills as a seamstress lead her to design and make quilts that kept the family members warm during the cold of winter on the farm. *"Give her the reward she has earned and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."*

In later years her children learned to gage her health by her "Fussing" (making much ado about trifles and details). When she was fussing, they could breath a sigh of relief that she was "doing just fine".

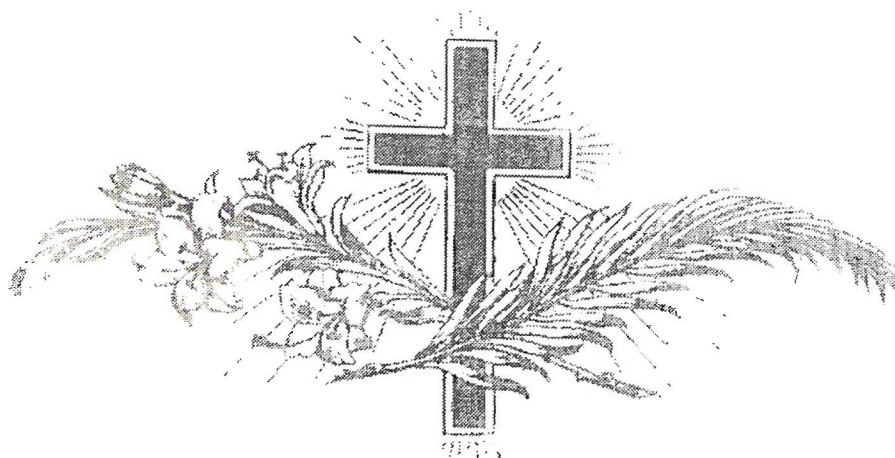
She was preceded in death by her husband, Francis Joseph Atlas, Sr. and by three of her children, Francis Joseph Atlas, Jr., Nora Louise Jefferson and Ethel Mae Sparrow.

#### **EPILOGUE:**

**SUNSET** - Work for the night is coming when man's work is done! On this very triumphant day, January 13, 2003, the Lord called Willie Mae Atlas home to rest and dwell with him. So, we salute and celebrate her life and bestow upon her the commendation medal of honor, "Best Mother of Mothers"

*Well done thy good and faithful servant...; Be faithful even to the point of death and I will give you the crown of life.*

Celebrating her life and cherishing the memories of the sweet, sweet spirit of Willie Mae Atlas, "Dear", are: three daughters, Susie Lee Ammons of Chicago, Illinois, Florence Marie Atlas of Lake Providence, Louisiana and Annie Elizabeth Chatman of Detroit, Michigan; six sons, Phillip King Atlas (Vearis Mae) of Bastrop, Louisiana, Lawrence Atlas of Emeryville, California, Edward Delano Atlas of Austin, Texas, Charles Weldon Atlas of Merrillville, Indiana, Dr. John Wesley Atlas (Arthurlean) of Detroit, Michigan, and Willie James Atlas of Southfield, Michigan; eighteen grandchildren, seventeen great grandchildren, and five great-great grandchildren and a host of relatives, friends and acquaintances.





. . . Let your light shine before men,  
that they may see your good deeds  
and praise your Father in Heaven

Matthew 5:16



## Acknowledgements

*We wish to thank our many friends and neighbors for their expressions of sympathy through their prayer, visits, calls and other acts of kindness extended to us during the death of our loved one. Special thanks to the doctors and medical staff of the West Carroll Memorial Hospital of Oak Grove, Louisiana and to the Home Health Nurse, Susan Cook and the physician, Dr. Fakhre*

The Atlas Family





## Active Pallbearers

*Phillip King Atlas*

*Lawrence Atlas*

*Edward Delano Atlas*

*Charles Weldon Atlas*

*John Wesley atlas*

*Willie James Atlas*

## Honorary Pallbearers

*Sheryl Smith*

*Janice Hawkins*

*L Tanya Harris*

*Barbara Bridges*

*Jeanne Marie Sparrow*

*Vincent Atlas*

*Dawn Thompson*

*Constance Atlas*

*Sheila G. Ellis*

*Bobby Jefferson, Jr.*

*Steve Atlas*

*Royce Griffin*

*Nicholas A. Atlas*

*Mavis A. Perry*

*Candace L. Atlas*

*Jamila A. Turner*


*Amina K. Atlas*

*Derek J. Atlas*


## Interment

*Gaither Memorial Cemetery*

*Services entrusted to  
Brannum Funeral Home  
Lake Providence, Louisiana*



## Epilogue: The Wife of Noble Character



*A wife of noble character who can find?  
She is worth far more than rubies.  
Her husband has full confidence in her  
and lacks nothing of value.  
She brings him good, not harm,  
all the days of her life.  
She selects wool and flax  
and works with eager hands.  
She is like the merchant ships,  
bringing her food from afar.  
She gets up while it is still dark;  
she provides food for her family  
and portions for her servant girls.  
She considers a field and buys it;  
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.  
She sets about her work vigorously;  
her arms are strong for her tasks.  
She sees that her trading is profitable,  
and her lamp does not go out at night.  
In her hand she holds the distaff  
and grasps the spindle with her fingers.  
She opens her arms to the poor  
and extends her hands to the needy.  
When it snows, she has no fear for her  
household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.  
She makes coverings for her bed;  
she is clothed in fine linen and purple.  
Her husband is respected at the city gate,  
where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.  
She makes linen garments and sells them,  
and supplies the merchants with sashes.  
She is clothed with strength and dignity;  
she can laugh at the days to come.  
She speaks with wisdom,  
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.  
She watches over the affairs of her household  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.  
Her children arise and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her:  
"Many women do noble things,  
but you surpass them all."  
Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;  
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.  
Give her the reward she has earned,  
and let her works being her praise at the city gate.*

Proverbs 31:10-31

